

Appl. No. 09/857,353
Amdt. Dated August 25, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of May 24, 2004

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A transport system for small components, in particular electrical components, which are arranged in series in said transport system, comprising a form chain having an arbitrary number of chain links in which the small components are accommodated and which each have one accommodation cavity formed therein having at least two walls, one of said walls being rigid and the wall opposite thereto being resilient wherein the resilient wall is adapted to urge the small component against the rigid wall when the cavity accommodates the small component.

2. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the resilient wall consists of a central web extending in the direction of insertion of the small components and having resilient arms laterally extending therefrom.

3. (Original) A transport system according to claim 2, wherein the resilient arms extend over the full height of the accommodation cavity and on the outer ends thereof each have a bead directed towards the inside.

4. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the resilient wall consists of an outer wall and two resilient arms, said resilient arms, being connected at the bottom side thereof to the outer wall and, at the upper ends thereof, being freestanding and resilient.

5. (Original) A transport system according to claim 4, wherein the outside of the rigid wall opposite the resilient wall has a slope.

6. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the accommodation cavity is designed as through opening.

7. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the chain links are pivotable about a pin transversely to the direction of insertion of the small components in the accommodation cavity.

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8. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the chain links are pivotable about a pin perpendicularly to the direction of insertion of the small components in the accommodation cavity.

9. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the chain links are connected via two pins arranged perpendicularly to each other.

10. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein each chain link on one side thereof has two lateral arms with bores and on the opposite side thereof has a central arm with a bore for accommodating a pin.

11. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the chain links are made by plastics injection molding.

12. (Original) A transport system according to claim 11, wherein the pins are made of metal.

13. (Original) A transport system according to claim 10, wherein the pins project laterally beyond the lateral arms.

14. (Original) A transport system according to claim 7, wherein on the sides of the accommodation cavities extending in the longitudinal direction of the chain, there are formed projections on both sides thereof extending in longitudinal direction, which have a width corresponding to the diameter of the pin and in the longitudinal direction thereof are arranged at the level of said pin.

15. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the chain links, on one side thereof, have two lateral arms with bores and, on the opposite side thereof, have two lateral arms with axle-type projections, said axle-type projections latchingingly engaging said bores upon assembly of the links.

16. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the height of the accommodation cavity corresponds at least to the height of the components to be accommodated.

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17. (Original) A transport system according to claim 1, wherein the form chain comprises chain links with different accommodation cavities for different components or component stages.

18. (Currently Amended) A transport system for small components, in particular electrical components, which are arranged in series in said transport system, comprising a form chain having an arbitrary number of chain links in which the small components are accommodated and which each have at least one accommodation cavity formed therein having at least two walls each where one wall is rigid and the wall located opposite thereto is resilient, wherein, said chain links are linked one to the other about link pins, wherein some of said pins are arranged in a parallel axis to said accommodation cavity and some are arranged transverse to said accommodation cavity and the resilient wall being adapted to urge the small component against the rigid wall when the cavity accommodates the small component.

19. Cancel

20. (Original) A transport system according to any of claim 18, wherein each chain link on one side thereof has two lateral arms with bores and on the opposite side thereof has a central arm with a bore for accommodating said pin.